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## UM News

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# UM Bio Station to Offer Science and Fun at Annual Open House

July 31, 2019

**FLATHEAD LAKE** – The public can explore cutting-edge research and immersive education programs during a free open house at the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9.

The bio station is located 17.5 miles north of Polson and 14 miles south of Bigfork along Highway 35, on the eastern shores of Flathead Lake just north of Yellow Bay State Park.

This year, the open house will feature boat trips on the station’s 30-foot research vessel, the Jessie B, and science presentations about Flathead Lake and its watershed; stream, pond and lake creatures; animal hides and skulls; and aquatic invasive species.

The event also will include a few special guests. UM mascot “Monte” will entertain all with his acrobatic antics, and aquatic invasive species detection dogs from Montana’s watercraft inspection stations will show off their impressive mussel-detection skills.

For the first time ever, open house attendees also can view scientific research submarines at the bio station, which

are coming to Yellow Bay in August to help scientists collect important data from the bottom of Flathead Lake.

During the event, FLBS artist-in-residence Debby Kaspari will present why “Field Stations Make Good Art Studios” at 2:15 p.m., and bio station director and Bierman Professor of Ecology Jim Elser will give insight into “The Future of Science at Flathead Lake” at 3:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided, and there is no cost to attend. This is an excellent opportunity for attendees to meet and talk with FLBS researchers and scientists about their work, all while enjoying an afternoon of sunshine and fun on the shores of Flathead Lake.

For more information about the bio station, visit <https://flbs.umt.edu/newflbs> or <https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS> or call 406-872-4500.

###

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# Community Invited to Help UM Students Move Into Residence Halls on Aug. 17

July 31, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana invites members of the Missoula community to volunteer to help new students move into the residence halls on Saturday, Aug. 17.

Whether it's helping students and families find their way around campus, moving boxes and furniture from cars to residence halls, or providing support and answering questions, volunteers help make the day memorable and stress-free.

Shifts are two hours long between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and all volunteers will receive a Move-In Crew T-shirt or button and a voucher for a meal at the Food Zoo. Sign up at <https://www.umt.edu/grizwelcome/move-in-crew/default.php>.

This marks the first time UM has coordinated a single move-in day for all first-year students. After move-in on Aug. 17, students will begin their Big Sky Experience, take part in New Student Orientation and participate in Griz

Welcome events. Fall semester at UM begins Monday, Aug. 26.

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## UM News

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# UM Earns Montana's First Nationally Accredited MPA Program

July 31, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law now offers the state's only nationally accredited master's degree in public administration.

UM's Department of Public Administration and Policy's MPA program recently received accreditation for the first time in program history. The University's MPA Program is accredited by the NASPAA

Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation and listed on the Annual Roster of Accredited Programs in





conformity with NASPAA standards.

UM's MPA program is housed within UM's law school under the Max S. Baucus Institute.

Dr. Sara Rinfret, chair of the Department of Public Administration and Policy and MPA director, said the accreditation allows UM to elevate its commitment of excellence in law, policy and public service.

"We are fortunate to have dedicated faculty and staff to continue to find new approaches to advance the quality and rigor of our MPA program through the accreditation process," Rinfret said.

Established in 1976, UM's MPA program offers students the ability to complete their degree online or in person, providing flexibility for public and nonprofit professionals to advance their careers.

The curriculum allows students to customize their degree by specializing in nonprofit administration or seek a joint degree in law or public health. Many students elect to add a certificate in public policy, nonprofit administration or natural resource conflict resolution.

In addition to being Montana's only accredited MPA program, UM's MPA degree is the nation's only accredited one positioned within a law school.

"We are thrilled to be the only law school in America with a nationally accredited MPA program," said Paul Kirgis, dean of UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law. "The MPA complements our strong emphasis on public service in our law school, while creating new opportunities for collaborations among faculty and joint programming for students."

The University's MPA program has enjoyed enrollment growth since 2017, with more than 100 students.

"Our enrollment increase is because of our department's dedication to student success, flexibility in course delivery and cutting-edge curriculum for public service professionals," Rinfret said.

To learn more about UM's MPA program visit <https://www.umt.edu/law/mpa/default.php>.

###

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## UM News

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# Annual Economic Update Series to Tour Montana July 30-Aug. 1

July 25, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana and the Montana Chamber Foundation will take the 14th annual Economic Update Series on tour across Montana July 30 through Aug. 1.

This year's series is titled "The Silver Tsunami: Are Montana's Businesses Ready?" and will address some important topics such as workforce development and local working age population. BBER experts will deliver the latest state and national economic outlooks. Montana saw its 10th year of economic growth, and BBER Director Pat Barkey will dive deeper into industries that grew and those struggled.

The series schedule is:

- **Billings**, 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 30, at Northern Hotel
- **Bozeman**, noon Tuesday, July 30, at Best Western Plus GranTree

- **Butte**, 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, at NorthWestern Energy
- **Helena**, 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, at the Great Northern Hotel
- **Great Falls**, noon Wednesday, July 31, at the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association
- **Missoula**, 8 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, at Holiday Inn Downtown
- **Kalispell**, noon Thursday, Aug. 1, at Hilton Garden Inn

“Last year 2,850 Montanans turned 66 years old,” Barkey said. “At the same time, the state only added 2,712 18-year-olds. It gets worse in 2024, when 3,146 Montanan turn 66 compared to 3,042 new 18-year-olds, before getting better in 2030, when the pattern reverses with slightly more 18 year olds aging into the working age population than those retiring.”

“Workforce development is a major issue that is affecting every business sector in Montana and is threatening our ability to grow economically,” said Todd O’Hair, executive director of the Montana Chamber Foundation. “As Montana’s population ages in coming years, the strain to maintain a quality workforce will only become more challenging.”

The Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Chamber Foundation are prepared to lead the discussion and identify the solutions that work for the Montana business community. Each stop will also highlight a local business or organization that has found a solution or system for workforce problems in their industry or area.

For more information about the Economic Update and to register, visit <https://www.montanachamber.com/event-registration/2019-economic-update-series/>.

###

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# Three UM Students Receive Prestigious Philanthropic Awards

July 25, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Three University of Montana graduate students have received substantial awards from the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood for their impact on international relations, psychology and public health.

Sofia Reis, a graduate student in UM's International Educational Leadership Program in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, earned a second-year renewal of PEO's International Peace Scholarship for \$12,500.

Reis, from Lisbon, Portugal, received a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Lisbon and a master's degree in sciences of education from the New University of Lisbon.



For two decades, she served as associate director of the Portuguese Association of Private and Independent Schools and collaborated with the European Council of National Association of Independent Schools. In ECNAIS, she regularly worked with educational organizations, visiting schools in 24 European countries. Next fall she will take the exam to complete her dissertation proposal and begin her research.

Reis said she wants to focus on sustainable growth and organizational development within schools and center her research on education and democracy, educational leadership and internationalization.

"I plan to continue the work I have been pursuing for the past two decades, equipped with more sophisticated research tools, such as analytical frames for comparative education, identification of world best-practices and the possibility to network at a global scale," she said. "I believe knowledge is a resource that can be shared. Therefore, I am determined to actively engage in educational knowledge's production and circulation."

Hana Meshesha, a graduate student in UM's Department of Counselor Education in the education college, also received a PEO International Peace Scholarship Award for \$11,000.

Meshesha, from Gondar, Ethiopia, earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from University of Gondar and a master's degree in special needs education from Addis Ababa University – both in Ethiopia. She will begin UM's Ph.D. program in counselor education and supervision this fall after completing her master's degree in clinical mental health from UM's Department of Counselor Education.

Meshesha has been working as a professor at the University of Gondar in the past 10 years. She also was engaged in midlevel administration activities at the university. She wants to give her future students hands-on experiences in mental health issues





prevention and treatment.

“My main goal is to provide a constructive, feedback-based education where students feel welcomed and accepted,” she said. “For my future students in Ethiopia, I would like to create the space so they will feel comfortable in being vulnerable to learn

and personally grow. I am determined to be there to guide them through the process.”

Maja Pedersen, also a UM student, is one of 150 doctoral students in the U.S. and Canada selected to receive a \$15,000 Scholar Award from PEO. The PEO Scholar Awards were established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university. Scholar Award recipients are a select group of women chosen for their high level of academic achievement and their potential for having a positive impact on society.

Pedersen is a Ph.D. candidate in public health at UM's School of Public and Community Health Sciences. Her dissertation is a community-based participatory research project that addresses health disparities in chronic disease through promoting routine physical activity among American Indian and Alaska Native older adults living in rural communities.

Pedersen is from Fairbanks, Alaska. She holds a bachelor's degree in health and fitness management from Pacific Lutheran University and a master's degree in health and human performance from UM. Pedersen has been awarded a Fulbright Research Scholarship to train at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and was a 2018 UM Bertha Morton Scholar. Her dissertation research is funded by the American Indian-Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Program under the National Institutes of Health.



The PEO Sisterhood is an international, U.S.-based organization dedicated to the advancement of women. Learn more at <https://www.peointernational.org/>.

###

**Contact:** Dr. Tony Ward, chair and professor, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4092, [tony.ward@umontana.edu](mailto:tony.ward@umontana.edu); Dr. John Matt, chair and professor, UM Department of Educational Leadership, 406-243-5610, [john.matt@mso.umt.edu](mailto:john.matt@mso.umt.edu); Dr. Veronica Johnson, chair and associate professor, UM Department of Counselor Education, 406-243-4205, [veronica.johnson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:veronica.johnson@mso.umt.edu).



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## UM News

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# UM Professor Contributes to Publication on Ecological Restoration

July 23, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The ideas of a University of Montana management and marketing professor recently contributed to genomic research by Australian scientists trying to improve ecosystem restoration efforts.

Dr. Jakki Mohr is the Poe Family Distinguished Faculty Fellow at UM's College of Business, as well as a Regents Professor – the highest faculty title in the Montana University System. She is co-author of a recently published paper in the prestigious journal *Nature Review Genetics* with Martin Breed of the University of Adelaide and Peter Harrison and Dorothy Steane of the University of Tasmania, among others.

The article is titled "The potential of genomics for restoring ecosystems and biodiversity." It suggests the chances of restoring



natural ecosystems damaged through human activity will improve if restoration efforts leverage the power of genomics.

How does a Montana marketing professor get mixed up with Australian scientists?

“This project grew out of a conversation at the 2017 Society of Ecological Restoration worldwide conference in Brazil, where I presented a keynote talk on barriers to innovation in ecological restoration,” Mohr said. “Martin Breed and his team were intrigued by the potential of leveraging genomics in the ecological restoration context.”

The field of ecological restoration returns biodiversity and restores landscapes and ecosystems that have been degraded by human actions. Genomics offers an innovative toolkit to meet the increasing demands of restoration.

“This includes population genomics to improve seed sourcing for restoration projects, meta-omics to improve assessment and monitoring of restoration outcomes, and genome editing to generate novel genotypes and genetic biocontrol of pest and weed populations,” she said.

The article evaluates the potential of these genomics tools and identifies barriers to adopting them in a restoration context. It also emphasizes the need for regulatory and ethical frameworks to guide use of the tools.

The full article is online at <https://go.nature.com/2LABbL8>.

###

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# UM's Mansfield Center Awarded \$1.75M Grant for Nationwide Scholar Exchanges

July 23, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center has been awarded a U.S. Department of State \$1.75 million grant to lead a series of institutes dedicated to enhancing a global understanding of the U.S, including workforce development in Montana.

The funding allows UM to design and oversee four, six-week programs called Study of the U.S. Institutes, or SUSI. The institutes promote a better understanding of the people, institutions and culture of the U.S. among global scholars.

As part of the grant, UM, Arizona State University, the University of Delaware and New York University will host individual institutes on 21st-century workforce needs, media, U.S. foreign policy and American culture and values,





respectively. The institutes each host groups of 18 international university faculty and professionals, enabling them to acquire a deeper understanding of the U.S.

"This grant highlights our capacity to compete not only on the merits of our Montana programming, but also on our proven nationwide and global capacity," said Deena Mansour, Mansfield Center interim executive director.

UM currently is hosting an institute titled, "Preparing for the 21st-Century Economy and Industries of the Future" through Aug. 13. Led by Theresa Floyd, assistant professor in UM's College of Business, the institute explores how students and workers develop access to affordable, relevant and innovative education and job training that will equip them to compete in the global economy.

The institute also includes representation from Missoula College, Flathead Valley Community College, Helena College and Salish Kootenai College, as well as the private sector.

The grant will renew for an additional two years based on performance and funding availability, for a three-year total of \$5.25 million.

The program reflects the U.S. National Security Strategy of recognizing that perceptions of the U.S. by people around the world have a significant impact on national security.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center was created to enhance mutual understanding between the United States and Asia and to foster ethical public policy and leadership. The center builds understanding among people and cultures, while fostering globally-minded leaders of integrity in Montana and around the world.

For more information on this grant or other Mansfield programs, visit [www.umt.edu/mansfield](http://www.umt.edu/mansfield).

###

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# UM's Incoming Presidential Leadership Scholars Ready to Succeed

July 23, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – Thirty-two top-tier students will attend the University of Montana this fall as Presidential Leadership Scholars.

Recipients are chosen based on leadership, service and academic merit, and their scholarships are renewable for a total of four years. This year's incoming PLS cohort had an average GPA of 3.92 and an average ACT score of 31. The scholars also are inducted into UM's Davidson Honors College.

"These top scholars come to us with credentials that distinguish them as some of the finest students and citizens of their generation," said Tim Nichols, honors college dean. "More exciting than their past achievements, however, is the tremendous potential they bring to the Davidson Honors College. We are even more excited about their futures at the University of Montana, and beyond. As an institution, we are deeply grateful to the generous donors who have made the program possible."

Nineteen of the incoming students graduated from Montana high schools, with the remainder coming from out of state.

Their majors are as varied as their hometowns, but many have similar interests. Thirty of the incoming scholarship recipients answered a short survey from UM that included a question about how they would change the world if given the opportunity.

Addressing climate change, ending environmental degradation and eliminating pollution were noted by a majority of the PLS students.

"The most pressing matter that is integral to the health of our globe is climate change," said **Great Falls** graduate Taylor Curry. "I would like to see comprehensive legislation involving specifics like single-use plastics and carbon emissions come into effect."

"A top priority worldwide should be protecting the environment and ensuring the success of the natural world," said Sabine Englert of **Boise, Idaho**. "I would change humankind's general attitude of the Earth being a mere resource for us to use and abuse at our leisure."

Several other students said they would like to create a political culture of civility.

"I would like to see a world where people with differing opinions could have genuine conversations about the issues that they disagree on without screaming at each other," said Clara McRae of **Helena**.

"At this point, if I could change anything in the world, it would be to eliminate the partisan fighting that has been occurring and escalating within both the U.S. government and other governing bodies around the world," said **Missoula** graduate Dylan Yonce.

Other issues near and dear to the students included lowering the cost of medical care, ensuring access to education and better pay for educators, and increasing equality, compassion and empathy.

"I would want to build a more open-minded society," said Lucas Palmer of Great Falls. "We are all humans, and we should all care about each other."

"Empathy goes a long way, and moving forward I hope to change the world – even a little bit – by encouraging happiness and compassion in all avenues of life as catalysts for change," said Emma Thissen, who grew up in Kodiak, Alaska, and completed her senior year in Missoula.

"I would bring more diversity to my town and state," said Ben Wambeke of Cody, Wyoming. "To truly come to understand other members of the human race, we must encounter each other face to face and work it out."

Several of the students plan to study political science. Other popular majors for the incoming PLS class include wildlife biology, journalism, ecosystem science and restoration, and pre-med majors such as neuroscience, chemistry and biology.

Many students said they decided to come to UM because of strong academic programs in their area of study.

"Of the schools in Montana, UM seemed like the best for journalism and film," said Clint Connors of **Butte**. "With its interactive courses and distinguished professors, becoming a Griz was a no-brainer."

"During my college search, I focused on schools that emphasized a liberal arts education with an interdisciplinary focus and that also had a vital theatre community," said Helena graduate Isabelle Melton. "UM provides all those things while also offering an amazing pre-law advising program and outstanding honors college."

"I actually had some very determined out-of-state dreams before my college search," said Karter Bernhardt of **Billings**, who will study psychology and media arts. "After a few visits and some very profound talks with staff and students [at UM], I realized it would be the perfect place for me to achieve what I want to in my undergraduate studies."

Several also said UM's proximity to outdoor recreation weighed heavily in their college decision.

"I choose UM for the beautiful location, in between mountains and forests," said Elizabeth Todd, an Oakland, California, graduate who also will play soccer at UM. "The environmental connection is my personal favorite part. I wanted a college that is in touch with environmental justice and service."

The Missoula community was also a strong factor for many PLS honorees.

"The lively community and thriving culture led me to choose UM, and I look forward to getting more involved with it," said **Polson** graduate Aubrey Frissell.

"When I first visited the UM campus, I was hooked by how welcoming and natural the environment felt to me compared to the other schools I have visited," said Aubrey Benson of **Portland**, Oregon. "A strong sense of community and belonging is something everyone wants in their lives, and at UM I felt like I finally had found my place where I could thrive."

"We are thrilled to have this incredibly impressive group of students join us in the fall," said Katelyn Cordingley, director of career development and community partnerships in the honors college. "Our applicants were not just competitive on paper with high GPAs and test scores, they are also incredible young leaders who had their pick of schools and chose UM to be their launching point for learning, growing and changing the world."

Read more about UM's incoming class of Presidential Leadership Scholars at <http://bit.ly/2MW7xBI>.

###

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## UM News

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# UM's Financial Literacy Program Ranked No. 5 Nationally

July 22, 2019

**MISSOULA** – LendEDU just released its list of top-ranking financial literacy programs among hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide, and the University of Montana landed at [No. 5 on the list](#).

This is the third straight year UM has ranked among the top five financial education programs across the country. The University pulled ahead of Duke University, Harvard University, Yale University,





Georgetown University and many other schools with a score of 46.7 out of 50 for helping students become financially literate.

LendEDU based the rankings on three factors: number of workshops and resources (50% of total score), access to one-on-one financial consultation (30% of total score) and incentivizing programs, such as scholarships for attending workshops (20% of total score).

At UM, all undergraduate students must take Transit, an online financial literacy education program, and more programs and online resources are available with topics such as FAFSA guidance, loans and budgeting workshops. Students also have access to free, private sessions.

Brian French, executive director in UM's Office for Student Success, said students especially take advantage of information on FAFSA, student loan repayment and forgiveness options, budgeting, credit and savings.

"The UM Financial Education Program provides students and our UM family in general with resources and information to make sound financial decisions and to prepare for a successful financial future," French said. "We recognize that financial wellness is an important component of student success."

The financial education services are available to current students, alumni and employees of UM, Missoula College, Bitterroot College and UM-affiliate campuses.

For more information visit the UM Financial Education Program website at <https://www.umt.edu/financial-education/>.

###

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## UM News

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# Explore Public Lands Through the Wilderness Connect Website

July 18, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s Wilderness Institute invites the public to plan backcountry trips online using Wilderness Connect (<https://www.wilderness.net>).

The recently redesigned website guides recreationists who are planning hiking, backpacking, boating and wildlife-watching trips to federally designated wilderness areas. It also provides key resources for land managers to ensure that wilderness areas are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Wilderness Connect includes descriptions, regulatory information and interactive maps of all 803 wilderness areas in the U.S. The site also provides educational information detailing the history of the wilderness ethic, today’s stewardship challenges, and the benefits of and threats to wilderness. Users can search by state or wilderness name.

For land managers, the website provides searchable legal and scientific databases and toolboxes on contemporary

wilderness stewardship issues like climate change, fire and using traditional tools like crosscut saws.

“Our digital wilderness library – the only one in the country – puts information at the fingertips of more than 475,000 visitors annually and makes the Wilderness Institute a broad-reaching leader in conservation education,” said Andrew Larson, WI director.

“Americans are very concerned right now about their public lands at a time when reliable online information can be hard to find,” said Lisa Ronald, WI communications director. “Wilderness Connect is the only apolitical source for accurate and timely wilderness facts.”

Housed within UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the WI is a special center of excellence that provides students, land managers and the public with research products, educational programs, resources and technical tools to understand wilderness and wildlands conservation and stewardship.

In addition to being available to anyone online, Wilderness Connect is used as part of the WI’s Wilderness Management Distance Education Program, which provides professional wilderness stewardship education to students around the country. Wilderness Connect is also used as part of the Wilderness and Civilization Program, an interdisciplinary, experiential undergraduate program at UM.

Established in 1975, the WI was organized by a group of scientists, educators, conservationists and public land managers in response to ongoing political strife over wilderness allocation and management. Current WI programs also include a freshman wilderness experience and a citizen science summer program that empowers community volunteers to monitor the status of public lands in Montana. For more information on UM’s WI, visit <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi>.

###

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## UM News

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# Little Genes, Big Conservation: UM Scientists Study Genetic Rescue

July 17, 2019

By Kasey Rahn, UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – At first glance, there aren't many similarities between westslope cutthroat trout in Montana, wolves on Isle Royale National Park in Michigan and Australia's mountain pygmy possum, a mouse-sized alpine marsupial.

With all three, though, managers have attempted or explored the possibility of genetic rescue, a conservation approach that involves moving a small number of individual animals from one population to another to reduce genetic problems and decrease extinction risk.

Now, a new paper by University of Montana scientists examines the potential and uncertainties of attempting genetic rescue.

The peer-reviewed paper, published this month in the journal *Trends in Ecology and*



Evolution, is a synthesis and summary of the state of genetic rescue. In this opinion piece, the authors focus on what is unknown about genetic rescue and where research could go in the future.

The authors define genetic rescue as a decrease in population extinction probability owing to gene flow, best measured as an increase in population growth.



“Inbreeding can cause genetic defects that lower survival,” said Donovan Bell, paper co-author and a doctoral candidate in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. “In small populations, every individual becomes closely related and the resulting genetic problems put these populations at a higher risk of extinction. With genetic rescue, introducing unrelated individuals from another population can alleviate these genetic problems.”

“It allows natural selection to increase the amount of beneficial genetic material introduced by managers,” said co-author Zak Robinson, also a doctoral candidate in the forestry college. “It increases individual survival and lifetime reproductive success, which can increase the population’s size and health.”

As human development increases, so does fragmentation, and animal populations are increasingly splintered into smaller, isolated populations, the authors say.

“Even if fragmentation was to stop today, there are already millions of populations that are limited to small habitats,” Robinson said. “In order to address issues with small, fragmented populations and maintain biodiversity, we’re going to have to find ways to mitigate the impacts of inbreeding and the genetic problems it brings.”

That’s where genetic rescue comes in.

“Habitat fragmentation is incredibly common, and it’s a huge problem for conservation,” Bell said. “There are a few research groups that are strongly advocating that we start implementing genetic rescue in a much more widespread manner to address issues with habitat fragmentation. We think that genetic rescue is very valuable, but there is a lot left to understand about genetic rescue.”

In their paper, Bell, Robinson and their co-authors focus on what is still unknown about genetic rescue and areas where future research could prove beneficial. Some of those big questions include: how long the effects of genetic rescue will last; under what conditions potential negative consequences could occur, including genetic swamping (the loss of unique local adaptations), and outbreeding depression (reduced fitness of offspring with evolutionarily divergent parents); how populations and individuals should be selected for genetic rescue attempts; and how



advances in genomics – the study of genomes – fits into the whole picture.



The authors also draw attention to the relationships between genetic rescue and boots-on-the-ground conservation efforts – a pairing emphasized by successful genetic rescue stories like the Florida panther or Australia’s mountain pygmy possum.

“Genetic rescue is unlikely to be a conservation silver bullet on its own, but instead needs to be attempted as part of a broader conservation strategy that includes habitat improvements,” Bell said.

“Genetics and ecology are fundamentally intertwined,” Robinson said. “There’s a complex relationship between the genetic composition of a population and extinction. We need to understand this better in order to mitigate the part of extinction risk that’s associated with the genetic composition of a population.”

The synthesis closely ties to Bell and Robinson’s ongoing research efforts. As part of their wildlife biology doctoral programs, each is running a genetic rescue experiment testing the conservation approach on wild fish populations.

In partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and with funding from the National Science Foundation, Bell is studying westslope cutthroat trout in Montana – Big Sky Country’s state fish and currently listed as at-risk in Montana. On the east side of the Continental Divide, most of the populations that haven’t hybridized with rainbow trout are isolated in small headwater streams, and there are concerns that these populations could suffer from genetic problems, Bell said.

Robinson’s project, also funded by NSF, encompasses similar research on Eastern brook trout in his home state of Virginia, research he originally embarked on as an undergraduate student.

They hope these projects will help answer some of the questions they acknowledge in their latest paper.

“These are tests. We want to see how it works and see if it’s ready for popular consumption for the state agencies managing isolated trout populations,” Robinson said. “What we want to do is understand genetic rescue well enough so that managers can prioritize their activities and weigh it against other competing strategies on a limited budget.”

“Attempting genetic rescue is a really promising conservation strategy, but there are still uncertainties we need to address in order to make it as useful as possible for conservation and also to increase confidence in using the strategy,” Bell said. “It’s actually implemented very rarely right now.”

The paper, ‘The Exciting Potential and Remaining Uncertainties of Genetic Rescue,’ is available online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169534719301739>.

Other co-authors include UM professors Fred Allendorf and Andrew Whiteley, and UM alumni Chris Funk and David Tallmon. Co-authors also include researchers from Colorado State University and Michigan State University.

###

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## UM News

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# Montana Geriatric Education Center Awarded Five-Year, \$3.75 Million Grant

July 12, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The Montana Geriatric Education Center (MTGEC) at the University of Montana recently was awarded a five-year, \$3.75 million Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program grant from the federal Health Resources & Services Administration.

The funding will help the UM center sustain and expand education and training for professionals and communities



to improve the health and well-being of older adults across Montana.

MTGEC is housed in UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and is directed by Dr. Keith Anderson, a professor in the School of Social Work.

The center will partner with RiverStone Health in **Billings**, Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation in **Helena**, Partnership Health Center in **Missoula** and numerous other organizations. Three primary initiatives will integrate geriatrics into primary care, develop the interprofessional geriatric workforce and provide education to older adults, family caregivers and communities.

"These efforts are aimed at improving the quality of care, health outcomes and quality of life for older people across Montana," Anderson said.

For more information call MTGEC at 406-243-2480 or visit <http://health.umt.edu/mtgec/>.

###

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## UM News

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# Montana Public Radio to Broadcast Montana Folk Festival

July 09, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Montana Public Radio is headed back to the Montana Folk Festival in **Butte** this summer and will partner with Mainstreet Uptown Butte to broadcast live music from the festival’s “Original Stage.”

The music will broadcast from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, July 12, and from noon to 5 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 13. The broadcasts also will present live interviews with artists and stories that capture the feel of the festival, audience and the Mining City.

“We are excited to have Montana Public Radio broadcasting from the stage again this year,” said George Everett, executive director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte.

This year marks the ninth anniversary for the Montana Folk Festival. Three years prior, Montana hosted the National Folk Festival in Butte. More than 150,000 people attended the festival over the three days of the event last summer.

MTPR program director Michael Marsolek and Sarah Aronson from “The Write Question” will host the broadcasts.



“We believe delivering diverse folk, jazz and world music to our audience is a part of our mission,” Marsolek said.

MTPR also will make the broadcasts available to other public radio stations. The broadcast is made possible with support of Headframe Spirits in Butte.

The acts on the “Original Stage” that will appear on MTPR this year include:

### Friday, July 12

- **7 p.m.** – David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, bluegrass.
- **8:15 p.m.** – Mick Moloney, Billy McComiskey, Athena Tergis, Niall O’Leary; Irish.
- **9:30 p.m.** – Eddie Cotton Jr., soul blues.

### Saturday, July 13

- **Noon** – Rosa Tatuata and Michela Musolino, Sicilian and southern Italian.
- **1 p.m.** – Jason Samuels Smith, jazz trio with tap dancer.
- **2 p.m.** – Kyle Huval & the Dixie Club Ramblers, Cajun band.
- **3:15 p.m.** – Rahzel, beatbox.
- **4 p.m.** – Eddie Cotton Jr., soul blues.
- **6 p.m.** – Garifuna Collective, Garifuna music from Belize and Guatemala.
- **7 p.m.** – Carolyn Martin Band, western swing.
- **8:20 p.m.** – Taj Weekes & Adowa, reggae.
- **9:35 p.m.** – Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros, Cuban dance music.

For information on the event and its featured musicians, visit <https://montanafolkfestival.com/>.

Montana Public Radio is a service of the University of Montana and airs across much of western and central Montana at 89.1 and 91.5 in Missoula; 91.9 in Hamilton; 89.5 in Polson; 90.1 in Kalispell, Whitefish and North Valley; 90.5 in Libby; 91.7 in Kalispell; 101.3 in Swan Lake; 91.3 in Butte; 91.7 in Helena; 98.3 in White Sulphur Springs; 89.9 in Great Falls; 91.7 in Dillon; and online at <http://www.mtpr.org/>.

###

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# UM Researchers Land NIH Contract to Develop Opioid Addiction Vaccine

July 09, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana has received a \$3.3 million contract from the National Institutes of Health to develop an innovative vaccine targeting opioid addiction.

The principal investigator on the two-year award is Dr. Jay Evans, director of UM's Center for Translational



Medicine and a research professor in

the Division of Biological Sciences. Other investigators on the award are Drs. David Burkhart, Kendal Ryter and Helene Bazin-Lee from UM in Missoula, Marco Pravetoni from the University of Minnesota, and Paul Pentel and Mark LeSage from Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute.

Last fall, the [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#) and National Institute on Drug Abuse organized a meeting to bring drug abuse and vaccine research teams together with a goal of finding solutions to the growing opioid-use epidemic. As a result, UM partnered with the University of Minnesota and Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute to take on this new challenge. That partnership has now generated new research funds and a promising new vaccine candidate.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock welcomed news of the award.

“While we’ve made meaningful progress in Montana to prevent opioid abuse from occurring and to decrease overdoses, this invisible epidemic still steals away too many lives in our state and across the nation,” Bullock said. “The potential for a vaccine to treat opioid addiction offers hope in addressing this crisis, and I praise the University of Montana for conducting this important research.”

Opioid-use disorders are associated with heroin and prescription opioids, as well as synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. As an alternative to current small-molecule-based pharmacotherapies targeting opioid receptors – such as methadone or naltrexone – vaccines offer a promising safe and cost-effective strategy to treat opioid use disorders and reduce the risk of overdoses.

“The idea of using vaccines to treat opioid addiction seems strange to most people, but preclinical and clinical evidence suggest this approach can work,” Evans said. “Antibodies generated by the vaccine bind fentanyl and prevent it from crossing the blood-brain barrier. The vaccine itself has no drug-like effects because the fentanyl hapten – the part the drug recognized by the immune system – is linked to a carrier protein.”

UM scientists at the Center for Translational Medicine have worked on vaccines, adjuvants (compounds that stimulate an immune response) and delivery systems for over 20 years.

“We are applying what we have learned about traditional infectious disease vaccines to combat the growing epidemic of opioid-use disorders,” Evans said.

Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, emphasized the center’s vital role in biomedical research.

“Research being conducted at the University of Montana – from antibiotic resistance to a vaccine for the flu – will have global health impacts and demonstrates the University’s commitment to improving the health and well-being of the residents of our state.”

Established in 2017, the UM Center for Translational Medicine is a multidisciplinary research center that assists faculty, staff and students in the translation of preclinical research discoveries from bench to bedside. The center works across the Montana University System to facilitate the ability of researchers to better advance the clinical and commercial potential of their basic science discoveries.

###

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[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [July](#) / UM Biologist Honored with Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists

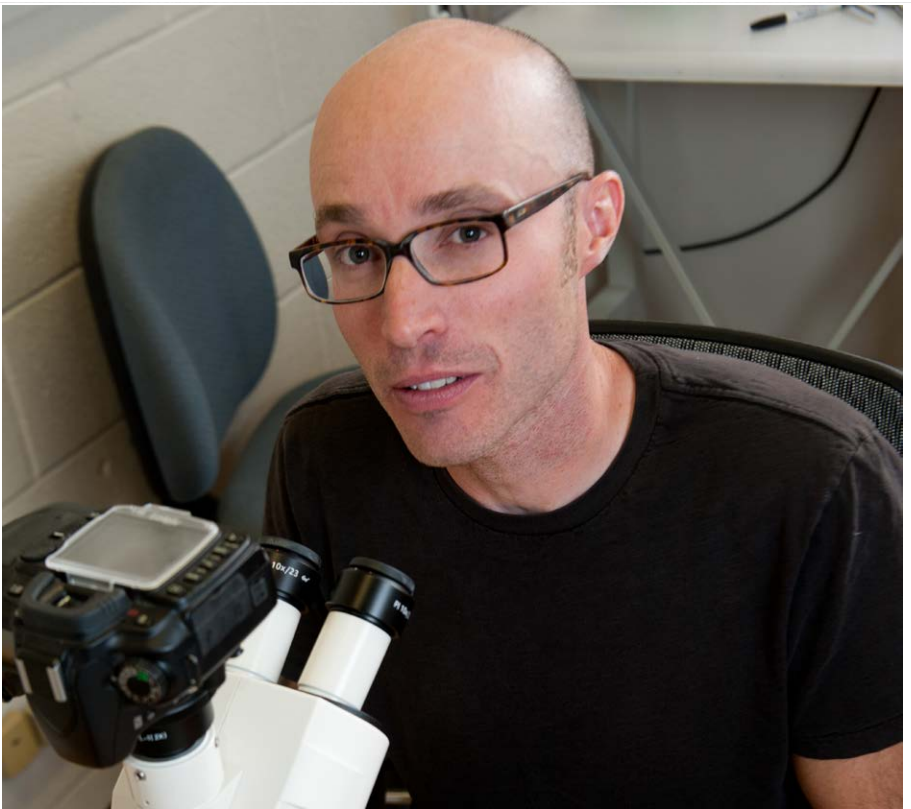
# UM Biologist Honored with Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists

July 08, 2019

**MISSOULA** – A University of Montana researcher recently won the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government upon outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent research careers.

John McCutcheon, an associate professor in the Division of Biological Sciences, earned the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) nomination from the National Science Foundation, which also awarded him its Faculty Early Career Development award in 2016.





The White House announced the PECASE award recipients on July 2.

"I am really grateful to the NSF for nominating me," said McCutcheon. "The award is the result of a huge team effort, where students, postdoctoral fellows and scientists have all worked together to do some fun and exciting science. I owe everything to these amazing people."

McCutcheon teaches genomics and introductory biology to UM students. His lab studies communities of microorganisms that live in a number of different environments – from inside special cells of sap-feeding insects to the outside of ambrosia beetles to those that form lichens.

"We are interested in how and why symbioses form, how they are maintained and what happens as the associations become more and more intertwined," McCutcheon said.

PECASE recipients are chosen for their leadership in science and technology and are invited to attend an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., on July 25.

Established in 1996, the award acknowledges the contributions scientists and engineers have made to the advancement of science and technology education and to community service, as demonstrated by scientific leadership, public education and community outreach.

###

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# MMAC Brings Rare Visiting Masterworks to UM

July 05, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Two rare and important works of art are on display now through Sept. 6 at the University of Montana, as part of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture’s “Visiting Masterworks” program.

The artwork will be on public view in the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building, on campus at the corner of Arthur and Eddy avenues. “Visiting Masterworks” highlights art by significant historic and contemporary artists on loan from private collections. The works on view in the Gilkey ground-floor lobby represent different moments in the art of the 20th century.

Like the artist’s other portraits, Ludwig Meidner’s 1913 “Self-portrait (Man in a Green Suit)” depicts the profound psychological content typical of the German expressionist movement in the first two decades of the 20th century.

A painter and printmaker, Meidner was born in Bernstadt, Silesia, now Bierutow in southwest Poland, in 1884. He gained

renown in the years after 1912, when he began a series of apocalyptic landscapes that depicted the catastrophic destruction of World War I. Although he was vehemently antiwar, Meidner was drafted into military service in 1915 and served as a French translator.

Pre-World War II, Meidner suffered extensive persecution by the Nazis, as he was Jewish. He lost his teaching position in Berlin in the 1930s and saw 84 of his works removed from public collections, labeled “entartete kunst” or “degenerate art” by Nazi Party officials who subjected modernist artists to sanctions. These included removal from teaching positions and being forbidden to exhibit, sell and create art. In 1939, Meidner fled to Great Britain, where he spent the following three years in an internment camp. He eventually returned to Germany after the Allied victory in the war.



Also on view is Robert Longo's large-scale, photorealistic charcoal drawing of a crashing wave. Longo, an American born in 1953, began drawing towering waves in 1999, using his signature hyper-realistic technique to transform black-and-white charcoal into thunderous ocean forms. In the late 1990s, Longo was fascinated by phenomena that seem to exist for only an instant, such as crashing waves and atomic explosions.

“The shape of a wave is not necessarily dictated by how strong the wind is,” Longo said. “It’s dictated by what’s deep underneath it. It’s like psychoanalysis.”

By drawing these moments in precise detail, Longo aimed to create a sense of beauty in the

sublime, yet terrifying, forces of nature. He titled his series of wave drawings “Monsters” for their intimidating grandeur.

###

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# MontanaPBS, MTPR Receive Accolades at State Broadcast Convention

July 02, 2019

**MISSOULA** – MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio once again have received recognition for providing excellent programming during the Montana Broadcasters Association Convention.

Producer Anna Rau received a coveted E.B. Craney Award for Non-Commercial Television Program of the Year from the MBA and the Greater Montana Foundation. Rau's documentary "Safe Enough?" took viewers through the evolving debate over seatbelts on buses with interviews from crash experts, lawmakers and school officials (<http://bit.ly/2Xp7UJN>).

"Backroads of Montana: Speed of Sound," produced by William Marcus, Gus Chambers, John Twiggs and Ray Ekness was the other finalist in the same category (<http://bit.ly/2NtbP3C>).



Montana Public Radio's website was the runner-up in the Radio Website category, and Montana Public Radio online editor Josh Burnham and his staff won the last two awards in the category (<http://bit.ly/2XFMYO9>).

In the Radio Non-Commercial Program of the Year category, "Alex Not Amy: Growing Up Transgender in the Rural West," produced by School of Journalism Dean Denise Dowling and aired by MTPR, was named runner-up (<http://bit.ly/2XHxNE6>).

The E.B. Craney Awards recognize excellence in local news, production, promotion, programs and public service in both radio and television stations across the state. The awards were presented at the MBA banquet and Hall of Fame induction on Saturday, June 22, at Big Sky Resort.

Montana Public Radio and MontanaPBS are part of the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center.

Montana Public Radio airs across much of western and central Montana at 89.1 and 91.5 in Missoula; 91.9 in Hamilton; 89.5 in Polson; 90.1 in Kalispell, Whitefish and North Valley; 90.5 in Libby; 91.7 in Kalispell; 101.3 in Swan Lake; 91.3 in Butte; 91.7 in Helena; 89.9 in Great Falls; 91.7 in Dillon and online at <https://www.mtpr.org/>.

MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of UM and Montana State University. For more information, visit <http://www.montanapbs.org/>.

###

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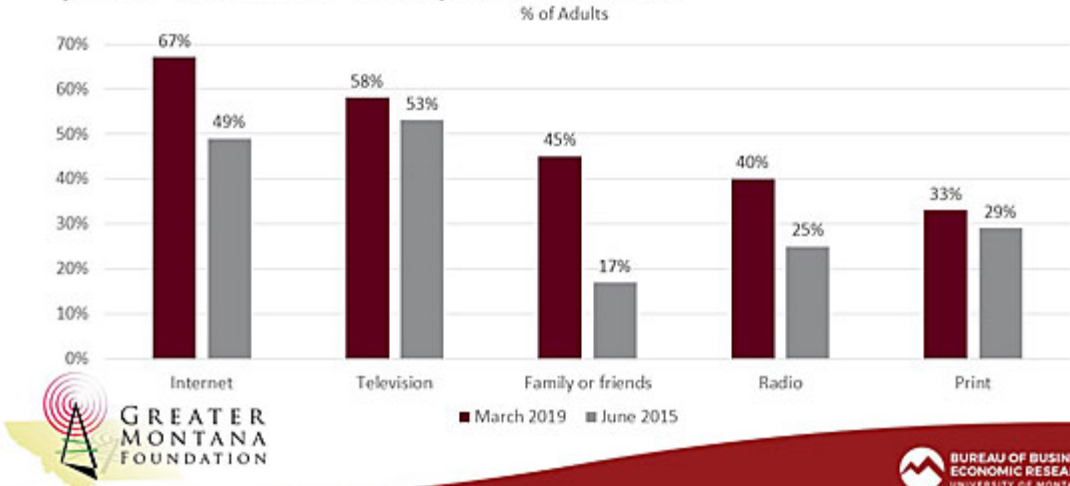
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# Study Reveals Montana Media Usage

July 01, 2019

**MISSOULA –** Montanans are increasing their news consumption and trust local news over national news sources, according to a new study by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana.

## Which sources did you use to get most of your news in the past week?



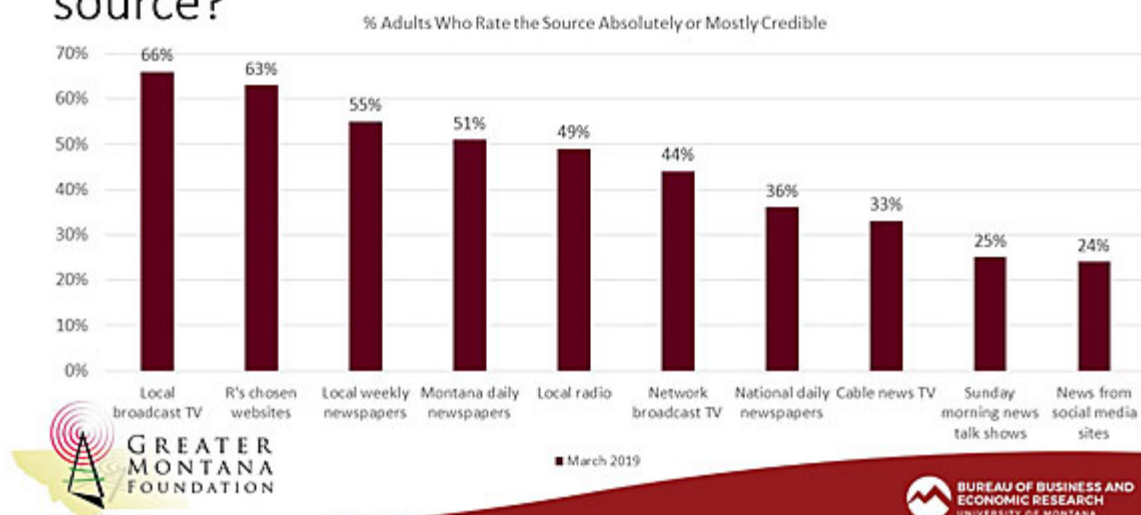
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Greater Montana Foundation, the 2019 News Media Preferences and Issues Study examined trends in Montana news consumption. It studied news media usage across Montana using the results of three surveys conducted by BBER in 2015, 2016 and 2019.

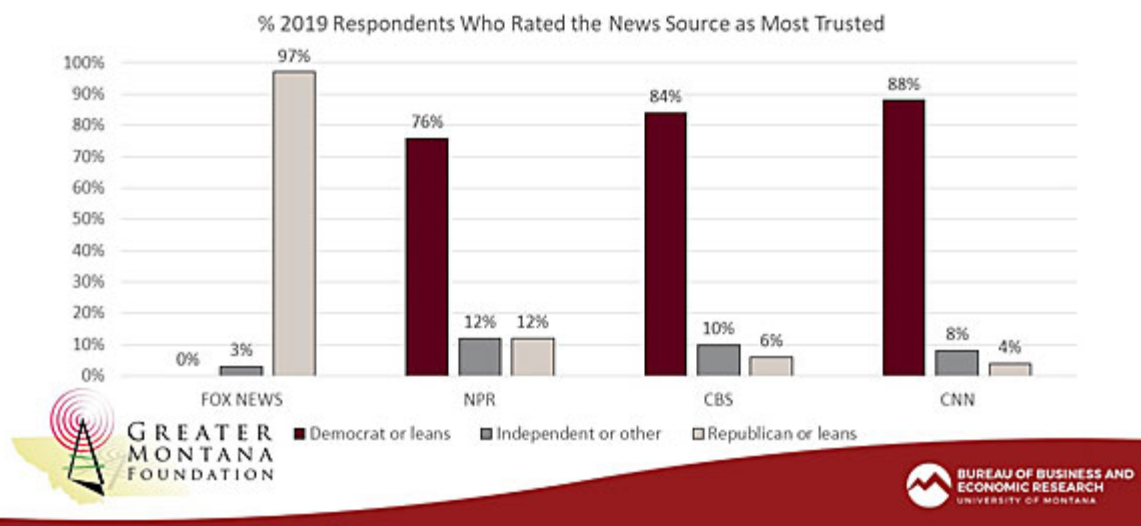
The study found that people consumed individual news sources more selectively and their views on news source credibility varied widely.

“The most interesting trends are that news sources have proliferated, either directly online or through social media, and that more Montanans are using their hand-held device to get their news,” said John Baldrige, BBER director of survey research. “Consumers also are using a wider

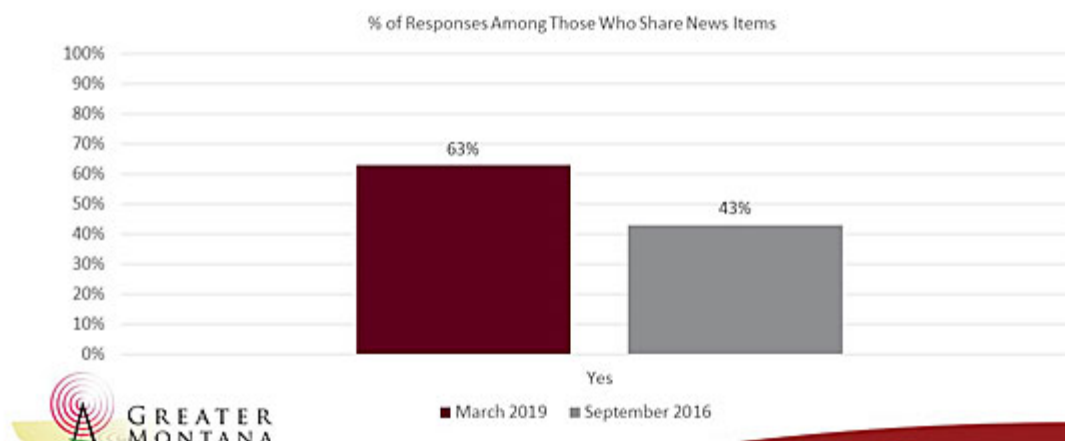
## How credible are the following types of news source?



## Trust in news sources is sharply divided by political party



## Would you say you sometimes share a news item on the internet to influence others?



variety of news sources – from internet, cable and local to radio and print.”



According to the 2019 study, 63% of Montanans who share news do so to influence or educate people. This figure jumped from 43% in 2016.

“The tendency for Montanans to select news sources that match their political preferences has increased,” Baldridge said.

The study found viewership in 2019 for CNN consisted of 23% more Democrats and 20% fewer Republicans than in 2015.

“There is a big divide over whom Montanans trust for news sources based on their political party identification,” Baldridge said.

Of the study respondents that said Fox News is their most trusted news source, 97% identified as Republican. The study found that 76% of Montanans who cited NPR as their most trusted news source identified as Democrats.

“The survey did a great job in capturing the range of people’s views of credibility of news sources,” Baldridge said.

Two-thirds of Montanans (66%) rate local news as being absolutely or mostly credible, followed by the viewers’ chosen websites and weekly local newspapers. The least credible news source was news from social media sites, with only 24% of Montanans rating them absolutely or mostly credible.

To view the full study findings, visit the Greater Montana Foundation’s website at <http://greatermontana.org/>. A detailed set of results with cross-tabulations also is online at <http://www.bber.umt.edu/> and.

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**Methods Summary:** The 2019 survey was a random, address-based sample of adult Montana residents. It was administered February through March 2019 by mail and the internet. BBER obtained 579 survey completions. The response rate was 36% (AAPOR 2016, RR 3). The sampling error rate is +/- 4%. The survey data are weighted by gender, age, education, urban vs. rural, and political party using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Gallup Inc. The sample was purchased from Dynata Inc. The survey was administered by UM BBER with questionnaire and analytical assistance from Nicole McCleskey of Public Opinion Strategies, which administers the Wall Street Journal-NBC News Poll. Full question wording may be obtained by emailing [john.baldridge@umontana.edu](mailto:john.baldridge@umontana.edu).

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